

Message Text

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ORIGIN ARA-10

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY PANAMA PRIORITY

UNCLAS STATE 288435

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: SHUM, PN

SUBJECT: CONGRESSMAN FRASER'S INQUIRY REGARDING PANAMANIAN
COMMITTEE FOR HUMAN RIGHTS

REFERENCE: TELECON TAYLOR/NADEAU

1. PLEASED TO LEARN THAT EMBASSY HAS ALREADY STARTED TO
REVIEW REPORT OF THE "PANAMANIAN COMMITTEE FOR HUMAN
RIGHTS" WHICH WAS SENT TO DEPARTMENT UNDER A COVERING LET-
TER FROM CONGRESSMAN DONALD FRASER. LETTER IS VERY BRIEF
AND ASKS ONLY FOR DEPARTMENT'S COMMENTS ON "THE SERIOUS
CHARGES OF VIOLATIONS OF HUMAN RIGHTS IN PANAMA." INTERIM
REPLY STATES WE ARE ASKING OUR EMBASSY TO REVIEW ALLEGA-
TIONS BEFORE PROVIDING COMMENTS.

2. MOST OF THE ALLEGATIONS ARE DATED AND WE HOPE TO RE-
SPOND TO FRASER'S INQUIRY IN A GENERAL WAY. ALSO PLAN
DISCUSS NATURE OF OUR PROPOSED RESPONSE WITH HIS STAFF
BEFORE SENDING OUR LETTER TO FRASER. NEVERTHELESS,
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IN ADDITION TO EMBASSY'S RECOMMENDATIONS ON GENERAL LINES

OF THE DEPARTMENT'S COMMENTS, WE NEED TO HAVE AS MUCH DETAIL AS POSSIBLE FOR BACKGROUND PURPOSES WITHOUT MAKING

THE MATTER A MAJOR RESEARCH EFFORT. IF POSSIBLE, PLEASE CATEGORIZE NAMES BY EVENT, AFFILIATION, CRIME, ETC. ALSO NOTE ANY PROCLIVITIES TOWARDS VIOLENCE DISPLAYED BY ANY OF THE INDIVIDUALS NAMED.

3. PHILLIP HARMAN ALSO PROVIDED DEPARTMENT WITH A COPY OF THE REPORT. NO DOUBT OPPONENTS OF THE TREATY NEGOTIATIONS PLAN MAKE USE OF THE ALLEGED HUMAN RIGHTS VIOLATIONS AS WELL AS OTHER SECTIONS OF THE REPORT - CONTAINING ALLEGATIONS ON COMMUNIST INFLUENCE AND CORRUPTION - IN THEIR ANTI-TREATY EFFORTS. WE WOULD LIKE TO HAVE ANY INFORMATION EMBASSY CAN PROVIDE ABOUT WHO THE AUTHORS OF THE STUDY WERE AND IF THEY HAD ANY MOTIVATIONS BEYOND EXPOSING HUMAN RIGHTS VIOLATIONS. ROBINSON

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